



The Creek

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Serving North & South
False Creek, Fairview Slopes
and Granville Island
for 20 years+

False Creek Tapas

A Random Stroll Around the Creek Serves Up Delightful Surprises

By Doris Ecker



The spectacular line-up of cherry trees along the stretch of Alder Bay, on the south side, is just one of the many fine natural "tapas" to be found around False Creek.

Tapas are big in Vancouver. The beauty of the concept is obvious. With small portions, yours to pick and choose from, almost anything goes - the old, the new, the unknown, the traditional, the artful, the hitherto overlooked, thought-of-as-dull or culturally alien. What goes for culinary pleasures applies equally well to the place you live in. You might have walked along the False Creek Seawall

dozens, maybe hundreds of times. Its charm lies in the little details. Favourite spots, things that you knew, but had forgotten; nooks and crannies you never took the time to explore; features that are here today and gone tomorrow; stories that live behind the scenes; a hodgepodge of cultures, history and art. The bits you choose and the whole that emerges depends

on your individual tastes and interests. Here is my personal tapas menu for a random stroll around the Creek.

South Side Comforts
Sakura, sakura

A lovely viewpoint at any time of year, the stretch of Seawall that curves round Alder Bay is the perfect spot to take pictures that will make

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Spirit Synott - dancer in Kickstart Festival

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Fringe Festival

September 9 -19th

The fun of the Fringe continues with nine indoor venues and ten Bring Your Own Venues on and around beautiful Granville Island. Performers are coming from across Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and South Africa. With over 600 shows to choose from, there really is 'theatre for everyone.'

KIDSFRINGE

KidsFringe is a chance for the whole family to enjoy the Festival. September 11, 12 and 18th from 11 a.m. until 5p.m. New Revue Stage or outside in the Granville Island Market Courtyard for free fun, including storytelling, workshops, crafts and much more.

FRINGE DE LA FRINGE.... where theatre is pushed past its normal boundaries at Ocean Cement. See page 9 for more details.

False Creek TRAVEL

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Granville Is. - Aquatic Centre
7 am - 10:30 pm, Every 5 min. - Daily

Aquatic Ctr. - Maritime Museum
10 am - 8 pm, Every 15 min - Daily

Granville Is. - Science World
9:25 am - 6:10 pm, Every 15 min - Daily
Stops at Stamps Landing & Yaletown en route

Granville Is. - Yaletown - Stamps Landing
8:55 am - 8:10 pm, Every 15 min - Daily

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kickstART 2

Festival of Disability Arts and Culture

One-of-a-Kind in Canada to Showcase Disability Arts and Culture

by Amita Daniels

Extraordinary Art, Extraordinary Lives...

Explore new territory in visual and literary arts, dance, theatre, music, and humour at the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre. The theme this year seems to say it all. Extraordinary Lives, Extraordinary Art. It's a celebration that affirms that emerging and professional artists with disabilities have a great deal to offer. And it's the only international festival of its kind in Canada, although originally inspired by a group of advocates for disabled artists in Toronto.

Artistic Director, Geoff McMurchy put together KickstART 2 with one main purpose. He wants to see disability arts and culture recognized as a valuable and enriching component of the overall arts scene in this community and beyond. He would also like to break down barriers that impede successful mainstream collaborations insisting, "integrating disabled and non-disabled professional artists strengthens our cultural fabric."

And McMurchy also has a mission when it comes to misconceptions the general public may have. "Art enthusiasts should appreciate that artists with disabilities are no more pursuing their artistry for therapeutic reasons than any other artist pursuing their craft." He goes on to say, "The lines between disabled and non-disabled artists become quickly blurred once you immerse yourself in the perspectives, insights, ideas, and different ways of art being presented throughout this festival."

He singles out local arts groups like the Vancouver Dance Centre, New Performance Works, Vancouver East Cultural Centre, the Roundhouse and Theatre Bagger as great examples of undertaking integrated collaborations that have inspired some exemplary work. The need for more than just a handful of mentors/collaborators to be available within the mainstream is



KickstART2 Artistic Director, Geoff McMurchy, taking a dance turn with his sister, Shannon McMurchy.

growing all the time as disabled artists gain the confidence and the skills to pursue their art professionally. "Some-day soon, I hope to say that shyness to self-promote, lack of training opportunities and social isolation are barriers of the past for disabled artists."

By now, well into the conversation with Geoff, I am curious to know who his target audience is when putting together a festival of this magnitude. He assures me that beyond the crowd from within the disabled community, that any theatre-going, arts-loving person will find something to talk about.

At the free Opening Ceremonies on Sept. 16, you can get a taste of what the weekend will offer, with an exciting line-up that includes locals like singer Jennie Emery, Max-i-mime, The kickstART2 House Band, the kickstART2 Choir with directors Susan Summers, Patti Powell and special guest director Pat Rix from Australia. Other international guests include comedy troupe The Nasty Girls from England; humourist David Roche, back by popular demand from the U.S.; and his compatriots Five Foot Feet, bringing a truly entertaining dance/theatre performance.



Originally from Russia, Max-i-mime is a favourite local mime, performing at the opening and throughout the weekend in a double bill with Five Foot Feet.

McMurchy is particularly looking forward to the singing workshop with Patti Powell and the storytelling workshop with ever-popular David Roache.

Dance is a particular love of McMurchy's who also

is a trained visual artist, sculptor, multimedia artist à la Emily Carr. A diving accident many years ago may have rendered him a paraplegic but his unbridled love of all the arts now drives him to kickstart the community into recognizing what arts and culture is in its broadest sense.

Checking the festival program guide it is easy to see that there are lots of free, family events with lots of children's programming as well as the adult entertainment and workshops.

It has been three years since the last KickstART, and three years until the next, and if you do the math quickly you can see what a tremendous boon it will be for the Paralympics here in 2010 to have this festival taking place. And successfully. We can all play a part in helping to build on this year's festival. Simply go and see a live performance, participate in the workshop discussions, delve into the visual arts and volunteer your time and expertise. Geoff says they are always in need of enthusiastic volunteers during the festival weekend.

Get ready to be entertained, moved, inspired, humoured by over two-hundred-fifty artists participating at kickstART 2. With a small, but solid, international roster of artists and several more from across Canada, this is a wonderful, unique celebration. Hopefully, grants of-

ficers from the Canada Council and the BC Art Council will also be in attendance to help facilitate McMurchy get around Canada and internationally in search of new talent in time for the Olympics.

KickstART is a project of The Society for Disability Arts and Culture incorporated in 1998 to present and produce works by artists with disabilities and promote artistic excellence among artists with disabilities working in a variety of disciplines. They also have it in their mandate to provide a variety of opportunities for the development of artists with disabilities and to promote practices that will make the arts more accessible to all members of the Canadian public.

The Society is also involved in a variety of activities encompassed by the Disability Arts Community Development Program. Components of this program have included the Swamp Angels Integrated Choir, dance and theatre performances, visual arts exhibitions and workshops in dance, visual and theatre arts.

Order tickets through Festival-Box Office over the telephone



Visual artist, Bruce Ray - The Crooked House - linocut on paper

604.257.0366 or through their website www.festivalboxoffice.com. Small additional charges will apply.

Festival Passes: Festival passholders are guaranteed seating at all events. Day Pass \$50 Weekend Pass \$150 Performances & Workshops Performance Centre \$10/ \$12 Other Performances \$8/ \$10 Workshops \$15/ \$25 Telephone: (604) 685-3368

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